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USSR: During the first quarter of 1970, Soviet industry posted a marked recovery from the poor performance registered a year ago.

According to Moscow's calculations, industrial production increased 8.9 percent. Labor productivity reportedly increased 7.9 percent, indicating that the relatively large increase in output was accompanied by unusually small growth in industrial employment.

During the first quarter of 1969, largely as a result of severe winter weather, industrial production grew only six percent and labor productivity only 3.3 percent over the first quarter of the previous year.

The Soviets will probably attribute a large portion of the improvement this year to their current campaign to tighten labor discipline and to intensify supervision and workers' efforts. It seems doubtful, however, that this primarily exhortatory campaign could in fact produce great or lasting benefits.

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